

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SCA-01 COME-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 AGR-20 RSR-01 /147 W
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R 161022 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5263

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5688

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: GOP ANNOUNCES REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE US- RP
SECURITY/ ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

REF: (A) MANILA 5561

(B) MANILA 5436

(C) MANILA 0894

BEGIN SUMMARY. PUBLIC INFO SEC TATAD HAS SUPPOSEDLY TOLD
NEWSMEN THAT FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL IS PLANNING PACKAGE
RENEGOTIATION OF MAJOR US- GOP MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ARRANGE-
MENTS DURING JUNE AND/ OR JULY. TATAD IS CITED AS HAVING
PICKED OUT THE LACK OF AN AUTOMATIC US RESPONSE UNDER THE
MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, IRRITANTS RELATED TO CRIMINAL
JURISDICTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR US SERVICEMEN, AND THE
IMPENDING TERMINATION OF THE LAUREL- LANGLEY ECONOMIC
ARRANGEMENTS AS MATTERS OF PARTICULAR GOP ATTENTION.

END SUMMARY.

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1. MANILA MAY 16 PRESS STORIES STATED GOP HAS DECIDED
ON A SINGLE PACKAGE RENEGOTIATION OF ALL US- GOP
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS DURING JUNE OR JULY OF
THIS YEAR. PUBLIC INFORMATION SEC TATAD REPORTEDLY

GAVE THIS INFORMATION AT PRESS MEETING FOLLOWING MAY 15 FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL MEETING AT WHICH PRESIDENT MARCOS PRESIDED. TWO PAPERS STATED THAT FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL REACHED DECISION TO REQUEST SUCH A PACKAGE RENEGOTIATION, WHILE TWO OTHERS REPORTED THAT GOP HAS ALREADY MADE THIS REQUEST OF U. S. TATAD ALSO SAID THAT DISCUSSION OF EXTRADITION TREATY MAY TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE PACKAGE TALKS.

2. WITH REGARD TO THREE US- RP SECURITY AGREEMENTS, TATAD REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THERE WAS NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR " TERMS." PRESS ACCOUNTS SPECIFIED THAT GOP HOPES TO " IMPROVE ON" THE LACK OF AN AUTOMATIC US GUARANTEE OF PHILIPPINE SECURITY UNDER MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY (MDT), AND CITED CRIMINAL JURISDICTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR US MILITARY PERSONNEL AS A FREQUENT SOURCE OF IRRITATION. ALSO, ACCORDING TATAD, PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON MILITARY AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN HELD IN BAGUIO IN NOVEMBER 1967 AND IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER 1968 AND, BASED ON THESE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL HAD DECIDED TO PROCEED TO TALKS ON THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

3. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, TATAD REPORTEDLY SAID ONLY THAT TALKS ARE NECESSARY SINCE US IS PRINCIPAL TRADING PARTNER OF PHILIPPINES AND LAUREL- LANGLEY EXPIRATION DATE IS NEARING.

4. COMMENT: GOP SOMETIMES HANDLES PUBLICITY ASPECTS OF ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS IN HAPHAZARD MANNER. NO OFFICIAL BULLETIN ON TATAD BRIEFING HAS BEEN ISSUED AND, AS NOTED, PRESS ACCOUNTS ARE INCOMPLETE AND SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY.

5. FOR THE RECORD, FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OF STATE OF PLAY:

(A) DISCUSSIONS OF 1967 AND 1968 DEALT WITH LAUREL-
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LANGLEY AND NOT SECURITY AGREEMENTS. MOST RECENT AND SPECIFIC FOLLOW- UP ON LAUREL- LANGLEY WAS DFA NOTE HANDED CHARGE ON MAY 14 REQUESTING US VIEWS ON SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT (REF A).

(B) MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT RENEGOTIATION IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONGOING, WITH INITIATIVE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS IN GOP HANDS.

(C) EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO SPECIFIC OFFICIAL REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE EITHER MDT OR MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (MDAA) SINCE PROPOSAL IN SECTION II OF AIDE MEMOIRE (REF C) HANDED BY FON SEC

ROMULO TO AMBASSADOR BYROADE ON LATTER'S DEPARTURE
FOR CONSULTATION IN US ON JANUARY 24, 1973. ROMULO
WAS RECENTLY QUOTED IN DAILY EXPRESS AS STIGMATIZING
REQUIREMENT IN MDAA THAT US BE CONSULTED ON PROCUREMENT
OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES AS " COLONIAL."

6. DURING PAST YEAR SENIOR GOP OFFICIALS (INCLUDING
PRESIDENT MARCOS AS RECENTLY AS NATION- WIDE TELEVISION/
RADIO BROADCAST ON MAY 8 (REF B) HAVE PUBLICLY REFERRED
TO DESIRE TO RENEGOTIATE ALL US- GOP ECONOMIC AND
MILITARY AGREEMENTS IN " PACKAGE" TALKS. AS OF THIS TIME,
HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NOT RPT NOT RECEIVD ANY OFFICIAL
WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF WHAT " PACKAGE" ALKS MIGH MEAN,
OTHER THAN REFERENCE IN ROMULO AIDE MEMOIRE TO " NEGO-
TIATIONS ON THE OVERALL QUESTION" ETC. CONSIDERING THE
EVIDENT COMPLICATIONS OF A PACKAGE APPROACH AND THE
JUNE- JULY TIME FRAME SUGGESTED, EMBASSY PROPOSES NOT
REPEAT NOT TO SEEK OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION OF GOP
PROPOSAL AT THIS POINT.
HAMILTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANILA05688
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730561/dcbcjacq.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 1973 MANILA 5561, 1973 MANILA 5436, 1973 MANILA 0894
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 19990416
Subject: GOP ANNOUNCES REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE US - RP SECURITY/ECONOMC AGREEMENTNS
TAGS: MARR, ETRD, RP
To: STATE
CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005